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TELLOS™

CREATED BY TODD DEZAGO AND MIKE WIERINGO

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KELL-O-GRAPHICS
- FILM OUTPUT -

...WITH A TIP OF THE STETSON
TO RODEO FRANK!

LEGEND

TELLOS IS A MAGIKAL PATCHWORK WORLD MADE UP OF COUNTLESS DIFFERENT LANDS AND REALMS, POPULATED BY MYTHICAL AND LEGENDARY CREATURES, FILLED WITH ADVENTURE... AND DANGER!

PURSUED BY THE MINIONS OF THE DARK AND MALEVOLENT ***MALESUR,*** THREE OF OUR HEROES--***SERRA, JAREK*** AND ***KOJ***--HAVE BEEN DETOURED BY ***THOMESTHARUSTRA,*** THE WISE AND ANCIENT MAGE OF SHADES, WHO IS NOW REVEALING TO THEM ...THE LEGEND OF THE LANDS...!

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Tellos Vol. 1 No. 3, July 1999. First Printing. Published by Image Comics, 1449 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. Direct market: $2.50 U.S./$4.00 CAN. Tellos is a registered trademark and copyright © 1999 Todd Dezago and Mike Wieringo. Any similarities to institutions or persons living or dead is unintentional and purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the express permission of Todd Dezago and Mike Wieringo. Printed in Canada.

image

YOU KNOW THAT TELLOS IS A LAND OF MANY LANDS -- A VAST AND FRACTURED WORLD OF MANY DIFFERENT REALMS...
...SOME OF THESE LANDS HAVE KINGS AND EMPERORS, AND SOME, HAVE NO RULE AT ALL...
IT IS IN A WORLD SUCH AS OURS, WHERE IT'S PEOPLES ARE SO DIVERSE AND SCATTERED, WHERE THERE IS NO UNIFICATION, NO SINGLE RULE --
-- THAT THE DARKNESS RISES UP...
...TO CAST IT'S EVIL SHADOW ON US ALL!

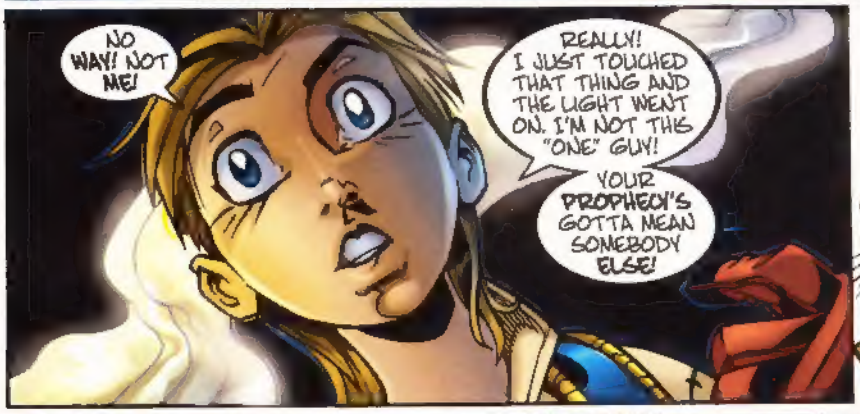
"ONLY TWO TIMES BEFORE, IN KNOWN HISTORY, HAS THIS PALADIN OF LIGHT BATTLED THE CANCEROUS DARKNESS...

"...BATTLED IT --

"... AND DEFEATED IT!
"THE LAST TIME, HOWEVER, SOME TWO HUNDRED WINTERS PAST, AS THEIR OWN DARK CHAMPION FELL, THE FORCES OF DARKNESS WERE WAITING...
"...AND CONJURED A SPELL THAT CAPTURED THE D'JINN...
"...BINDING IT IN AN EDRITCH PRISON...
"...ENTOMBING IT, THE LEGEND SAYS..."
...IN A TIME-LOST GEN!
WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO RECOVER THE STONE, THOUGH OUR SEARCHES WENT ON FOR EVERS! WE FEARED THAT, SHOULD THE DARKNESS RISE UP ONCE AGAIN, WE WOULD HAVE NO CHAMPION...
...BUT PROPHECIES TOLD OF THE D'JINN'S RETURN, MIGHTIER THAN BEFORE, FREED ONCE AGAIN AND GUIDED BY THE STRENGTH AND SPIRIT OF NOT ONE, BUT TWO BRAVE, UNLIKELY HEROES!

AND NOW, AS A NEW DARKNESS THREATENS TO CONSUME ALL OF TELLOS --
-- A STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL DARKNESS BY FAR! --
-- THE PROPHECIES COME TRUE!

YOU HAVE AWAKENED THE D'JINN! YOU ARE THE ONE THE LEGEND SPEAKS OF...
-- WELL, ONE OF THE TWO! --
... THE ONES WHO WILL LEAD THE CHAMPION OF LIGHT AND TOTALLY ANNIHILATE THE FORCES OF DARKNESS!
M-ME...?


NO WAY! NOT ME!
REALLY! I JUST TOUCHED THAT THING AND THE LIGHT WENT ON. I'M NOT THIS "ONE" GUY!
YOUR PROPHECY'S GOTTA MEAN SOMEBODY ELSE!

...

NO! NO, IT'S YOU! I WOULDN'T KID YA ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT! YOU'RE THE ONE! YOU RELEASED THE DJINN! --
BESIDES, IT'S YOUR DESTINY! IT SAYS IT ALL RIGHT HERE IN THE LEGEND! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THAT KINDA THING!
THE THREE OF YOU MUST LEAVE SOON -- TO GO AND FIND THE OTHER, AND THEN --

WHOA! WHOA! WHOA! HOLD ON THERE! I'M NOT GOING! I MEAN, I'M NOT WITH THESE GUYS.. I HAFTA GET BACK TO MY SHIP-- THE 'NOVA -- HOOK BACK UP WITH MY CREW... I CAN'T --
SEE? I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT... IT SAYS IT RIGHT HERE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "OTHER"...?

THE THREE OF YOU MUST GO AND FIND THE OTHER... SEE, THE TRUE POWER IS INSIDE JAREK, AND WHILE HE WAS ABLE TO RELEASE THE D'JINN, THERE IS ANOTHER... PART OF JAREK OUT THERE!

SORTA LIKE A POWER BOOSTER! SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS TO ADD TO THE D'JINN'S MIGHT!
THE DARKNESS HAS ALREADY GROWN STRONG... MUCH STRONGER THAN BEFORE... WITHOUT THE OTHER, THE D'JINN WON'T BE POWERFUL ENOUGH...
THE DARKNESS WILL DESTROY HIM!... AND SOON AFTER, ALL OF TELLOS!
JAREK... YOU MUST GO...

AND SERRA... YOU MUST GO TO CARRY THE AMULET! OBVIOUSLY THE BOY CAN'T HAVE CONTACT --
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SERRA... I CAN --

NO!
NO...
...YOU MUST NEVER...!

A SHORT TIME LATER --
-- AS KOJ GOES TO SECURE A TRIO OF HORSES FOR THEIR JOURNEY --
LIVERY
I CAN TELL THAT, THOUGH ACCEPTING, JAREK HAS HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THIS.. LEGEND...
...AS DO I...

AND YET, STILL... I CAN'T DENY THIS FEELING THAT --
-- EH?!

IS THAT...?

YES, YES! IT'S GOTTA BE...
WAIT!

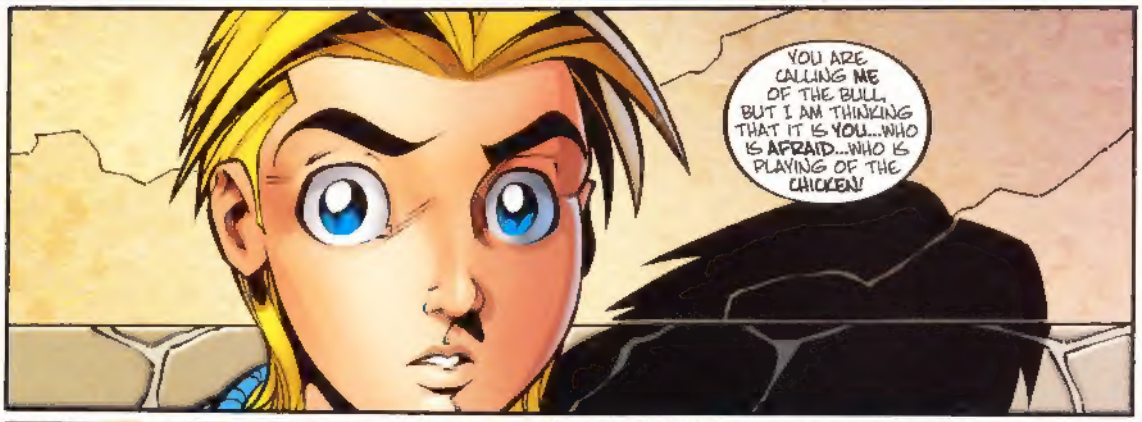
HOLD! PLEASE, I --

?!?
UNHAND ME, SIR! WHAT DO YOU ASSUME...?

I...
I...
MY PARDON, GOOD LADY... I...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE...

...HIGHWAY ROBBERY, YOU LITTLE SQUIDGE!
OFFICE
AN' I'M TELLIN' YOU THAT THAT'S THE PRICE, AN' YA CAN GO TO HIN IF YA DON'T LIKE IT!
FINE! YA LITTLE THIEF!
CHING
HEY!... CAREFUL...!
DAN! TO THE DESK...NOW! I GOT A RUN FOR YA!
HIYA SERRA!
HI, DAN!! IT'S GOOD TO SEE AT LEAST ONE PLEASANT --
IS THIS FOR HAWKE?
UH... YES.
IS IT A LOVE LET-TER...?
UM... N-NO...
DOES IT SAY LOVE IN IT?
UH... YES.
DID YOU SIGN IT LOVE?
ER... YE --
THEN IT'S A LOVE LETTER! I LOVE THOSE! YOU TWO ARE SO ROMANTIC...
UM... ...RIGHT.

See Your Past & Future
EX
...WEREN'T YOU WATCHING FOR WHERE YOU WERE GOING, LITTLE PUPPET MAN?! LOOK FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO MY WINES!
ME?! YOU WERE DRIVING LIKE YOU OWNED THE WHOLE ROAD, YOU BIG BULLY!


YOU ARE CALLING ME OF THE BULL, BUT I AM THINKING THAT IT IS YOU...WHO IS AFRAID...WHO IS PLAYING OF THE CHICKEN!

I'M NOT A CHICKEN! AFRAID OF YOU?! C'MON! I'LL FIGHTCHA, YA BIG DRUNKEN LOUT!

LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT!
JARE...?
JAREK? YOU OKAY, PARTNER...? --
-- YOU LOOKED SORT OF... DAZED...
JUST... TIRED, I GUESS...
WELL, C'MON! I'VE GOT THE HORSES. WE'LL NEED TO --
THANKS, DAN! I'LL SEE YA SOON.
'KAY! SEE YA!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE TRAVELING TOGETHER AFTER ALL! I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T GO WITH YOU GUYS ON YOUR "ADVENTURE", BUT I REALLY DO NEED TO GET BACK TO MY SHIP...
STOP APOLOGIZING, SERRA -- BELIEVE ME, WE UNDERSTAND.

WELL, ANYWAY, IT APPEARS THAT WHERE YOU'RE GOING -- ONA LI -- IS RIGHT ON THE WAY TO WHERE I'M GONNA HOOK UP WITH THE NOVA. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS...

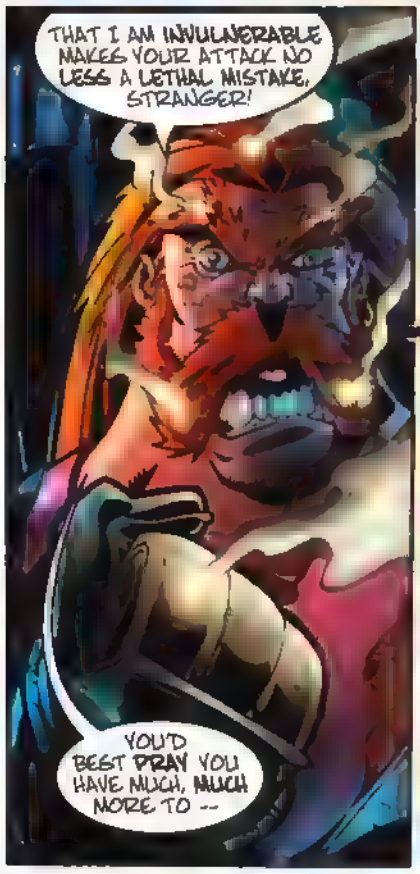
... WE HAFTA GO THROUGH TORRENT TO GET THERE!

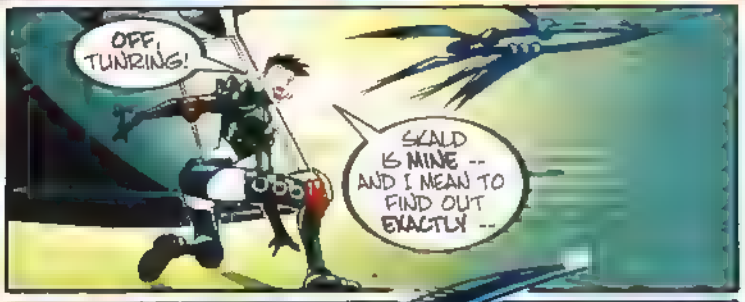
'TORRENT'..?
WHAT THE HECK IS 'TORRENT'?!

UNNNN...
...CAN YOU SWIM..?

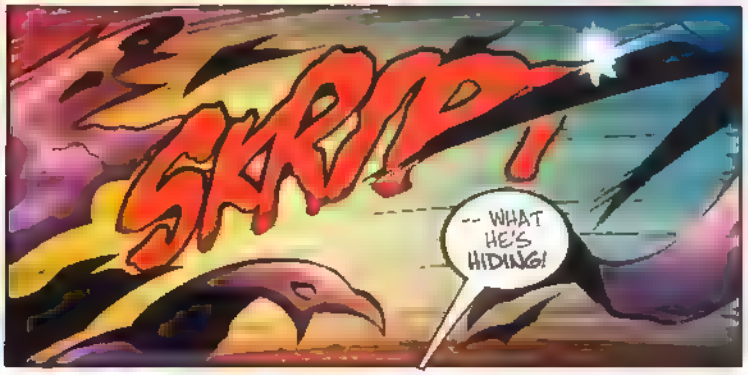
THE NETHER-REALM OF HIN
-- THE CITADEL OF THE DARKLIN, MALESUR..!
COME, SKALD -- TELL US..! --
WHAT ARE YOU BENEATH THESE CLOAKS? WHAT IS IT THAT HAS THIS MALESUR SO CONVINCED THAT YOU SHOULD BE ONE HIS 'HUNTERS..?
I WOULD, OH DEADLY DYN, PREFER TO KEEP MY SECRETS AS MY OWN...
OR PERHAPS... YOU'RE SHY... AND JUST NEED A LITTLE HELP...
...GETTING STARTED..?
HAVE A CARE WHAT YOU GO LOOKING FOR, ASSASSIN --
HO!
SHKLKK
-- TO LAY HANDS ON ME --

-- DEMANDS NOUGHT BUT BLUSTERING DEATH!
HUP!
?!
SKRUUSSSSS


THAT I AM INVULNERABLE MAKES YOUR ATTACK NO LESS A LETHAL MISTAKE, STRANGER!
YOU'D BEST PRAY YOU HAVE MUCH, MUCH MORE TO --

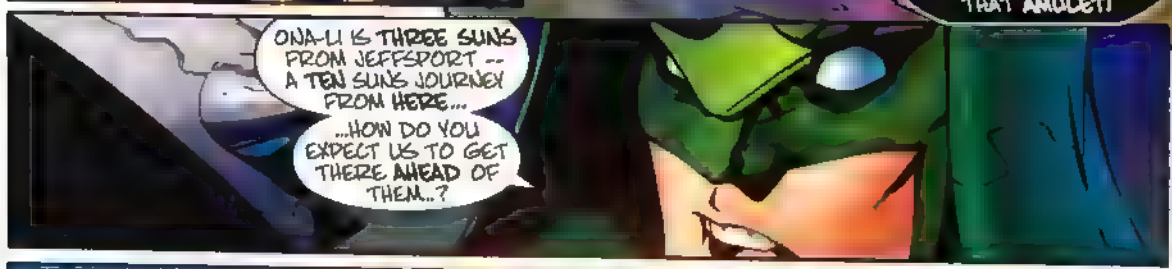

OFF, TUNRING!
SKALD IS MINE -- AND I MEAN TO FIND OUT EXACTLY --

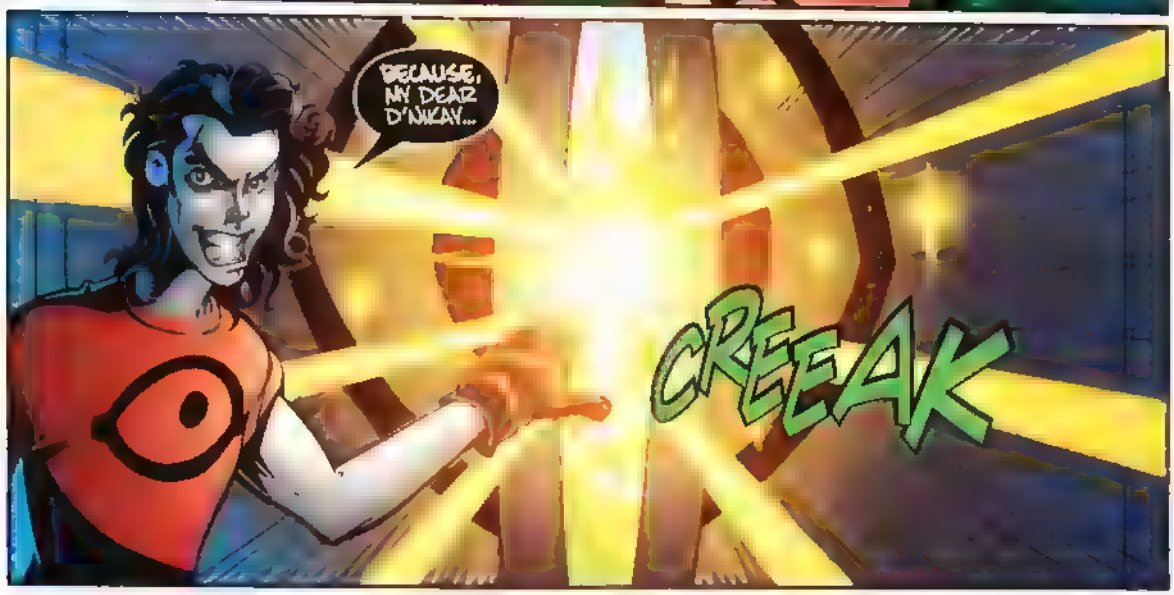
SSHH...ING


SKRIP!
-- WHAT HE'S HIDING!

MEDDLESOME WITCH!
YOUR CURIOSITY WILL BE SATED AS I BOIL THE MEAT OFF YOUR --
SHUT UP!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY 'HUNTERS,' AND YET YOU ACT LIKE A BUNCHA FREAKIN' KIDS!
I DON'T NEED THAT!
IT ENDS NOW OR YOU DEAL WITH ME!
MY INFORMANT TELLS ME THAT THE TIGER AND THE BOY LEFT JEFFSPORT THIS MORNING -- TRAVELING WITH A GIRL -- BOUND FOR ONA-LI...!
YOU FIVE WILL BEAT THEM THERE, AND THEN...HEH! BEAT THEM THERE...! BUT DO NOT KILL THEM! I WANT THEM ALIVE...AND I WANT THAT AMULET!


ONA-LI IS THREE SUNS FROM JEFFSPORT -- A TEN SUNS JOURNEY FROM HERE...
...HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO GET THERE AHEAD OF THEM...?


BECAUSE, MY DEAR D'NKAY...
CREEAK

-- YOU'RE ALREADY THERE!
WELCOME, MY 'HUNTERS, TO ONA-LI --
-- YOU'VE GOT TIME TO PREPARE BEFORE THE 'HUNTERS GET HERE.. DON'T MESS UP!

WHAT ARE YOU ONTO, JEGGA.? WHY DID YOU TAUNT THE STRANGER SO?

BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HIM THIS WAS THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO TAKE HIS MEASURE...
... I LIKE TO KNOW MY ALLIES AS WELL AS MY ENEMIES.. OR BETTER THAN..
..SHOULD THE NEED EVER COME... FOR ME TO DESTROY THEM."

SHRAKKOOM
TORRENT --

ARE WE ALMOST THERE YET..?
-- LAND OF A THOUSAND STORMS! IT IS AN ENIGMA, THIS PLACE --
-- A WANDERING EXPANSE OF GEOGRAPHY, A REALM OF CONSTANT DELUGE, THAT MYSTERIOUSLY TRAVELS ABOUT THE FACE OF TELLOS WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON..!

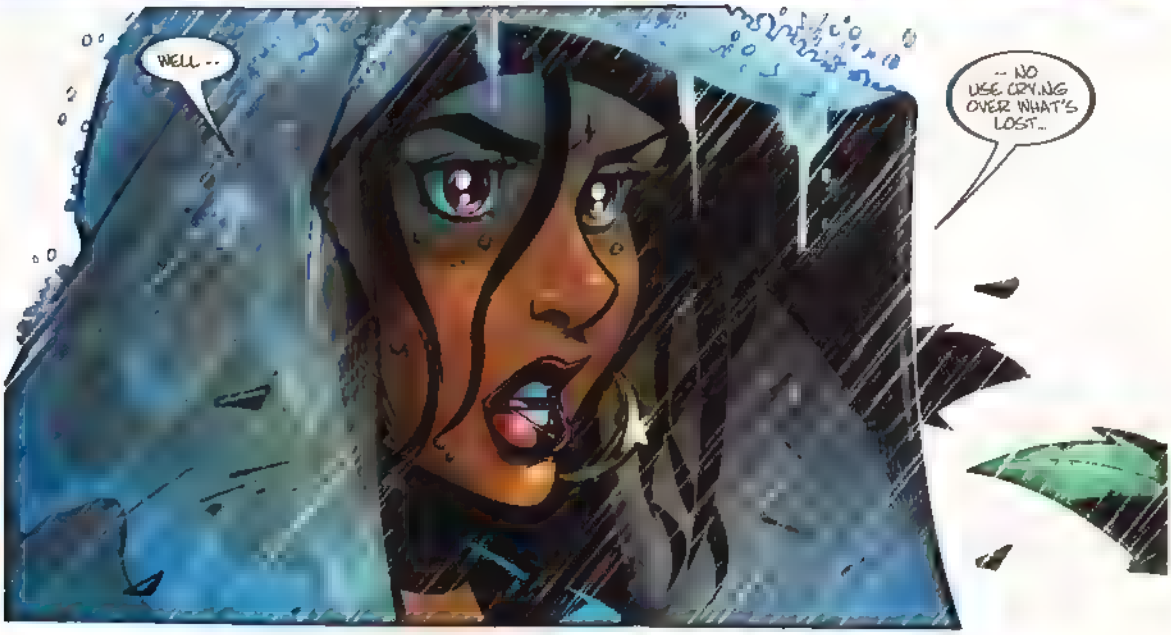
I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN RIDING NOW FOR TWO SUNS...
...NOT THAT WE COULDA SEEN A SUN.
HANG ON A MINNIT -- I'M USED TO BEING ABLE TO CHART MY COURSE BY THE MOONS AND STARS...
...BUT IN THIS DOWNPOUR...

HERE... ALTHOUGH THERE AREN'T ANY REALLY GOOD LANDMARKS IN TORRENT, MY GUESS IS THAT WE'RE RIGHT ABOUT.. HERE!

I'D SAY THAT LEAVES US ANOTHER TWO OR THREE LEAGUES BEFORE --
...
WHAT?
WHY'RE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT..?

HUH? I... UH...
NOTHING.
IT'S NOTHING.

OH! THE MAP!
WHHHP

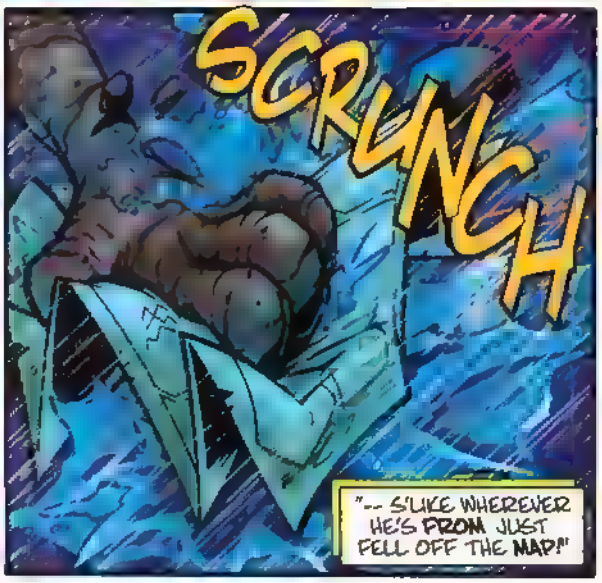

WELL --
-- NO USE CRYING OVER WHAT'S LOST...

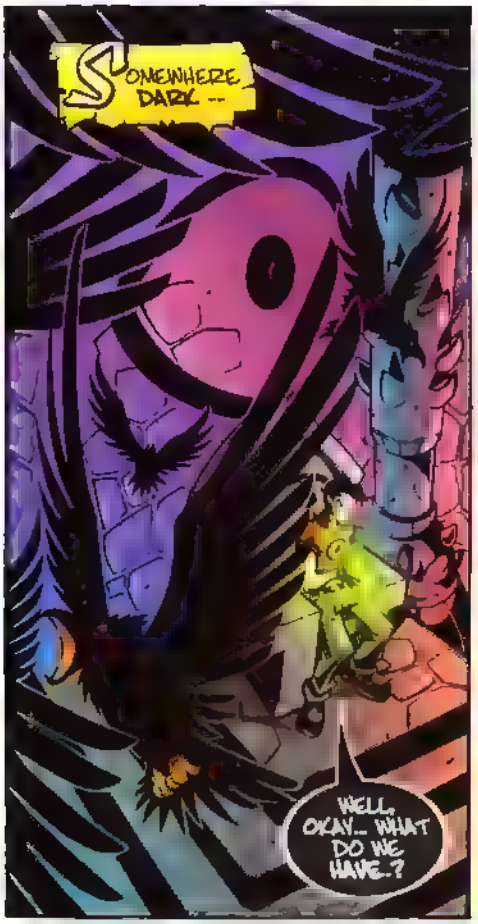
SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND KOJ BEEN TRAVELING TOGETHER? I'VE BEEN ALL OVER TELLOS AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A CREATURE LIKE HIM BEFORE..!

ME AN' KOJ..? WELL, FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...
KOJ AND HIS PEOPLE WERE TAKEN AS SLAVES WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG.
THEY WERE CAPTURED BY SOME GUY NAMED MALESUR AND PUT TO WORK AS WARRIORS IN A PLACE CALLED POLDANIA...

KOJ ESCAPED, BUT...HE COULDN'T GET ANY BODY ELSE OUT WITH HIM... HE PROMISED THEM THAT HE'D GO AND FIND THE REST OF THEIR KIND AND COME BACK TO FREE ALL THE ONES THAT WERE STILL SLAVES...
...BUT HE WAS JUST A CUB WHEN HE WAS TAKEN... HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HIS HOMELAND IS...
...AND NOBODY WE'VE MET REMEMBERS EVER EVEN SEEING A MAN-TIGER BEFORE...

"...HE'S BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A LONG TIME...


SCRUNCH
"-- S'LIKE WHEREVER HE'S FROM JUST FELL OFF THE MAP!"


SOMEWHERE DARK --
WELL, OKAY... WHAT DO WE HAVE..?

THE 'HUNTERS ARE WAITING TO ACT AS A RECEPTION PARTY IN ONA-U, WHILE THE THREE LITTLE 'WUNDERS NEAR THE END OF THEIR TRIP THROUGH THE TYPHOONS OF TORRENT..!

NOW WHAT WET, WET SURPRISE COULD I CONJUR UP TO GIVE THEM A PROPER FAREWELL...
...BAGH!?

JAREK! SERRA! HOLD FAST!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!
NHEEHEE
WH-WHERE DID THEY COME FROM.?
IT DOESN'T MATTER! MOVE! MOVE!

SPWOOSH
SPWASH
LOOK OUT!
GLUGG

THE HORSES!
LET THEM GO! THEY'LL FIND THEIR WAY OUT!
WHERE'S JAREK?!

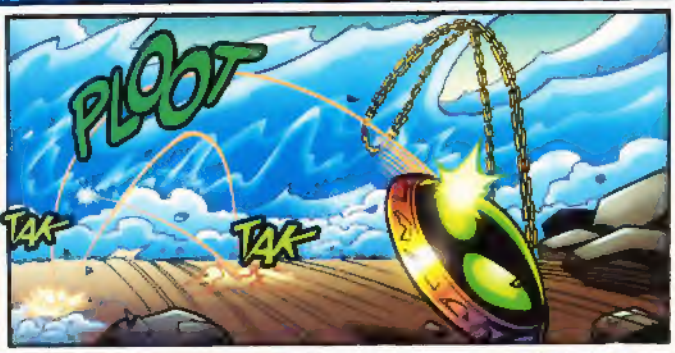
WATER SERPENT... KNOCKED THE WIND OUTTA ME.. I THINK I CAN HEAR THE GUYS JUST OVER THERE..! CAN'T TAKE MANY MORE POUNDINGS LIKE THAT! THESE SNAKES'LL DROWN US!
BUT HOW DO WE FIGHT AGAINST WATER..?!

UNLESS...

JAREK! KOJ! OVER HERE! WE CAN USE THE --

-- NO, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL Y --
SWOOOOSH

GLUB
!


PLOOT
TAK
TAK

SPLASH

SKAFF! HEY! HEY, IT'S DRY! AND WARM! WE'RE OUT OF TORRENT..?
I DON'T LIKE THIS...
WELL, WE'RE OUT OF TORRENT...

OUR THANKS FOR THE AMULET --
-- NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO GO LOOKING FOR IT ON YOUR BLOODIED CORPSES...!
...BUT WE'RE NOT OUT OF TROUBLE...!
TO BE CONTINUED!
IN TELLOS#5